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Richard Cobden's Influence toward the Peace of the World.

The centenary of Richard Cobden's birth, which fell on the third of June, was widely observed in England and to a less extent in this country. Synchronously with the Cobden banquet in London, the American Free Trade League had a dinner in Boston at which the life and work of Cobden were reviewed by Charles Francis Adams, Edward Atkinson and others, and cablegrams were exchanged with the Cobden Club of London. At the Mohonk Arbitration Conference on the same evening Horace White and Edwin D. Mead paid tribute to Cobden's service in behalf of international arbitration and peace.

Apart from any judgment upon his free trade doctrine, Cobden deserves to be held in the highest esteem and veneration by all the friends of international justice and peace because of his extraordinary efforts in behalf of international concord. It is no exaggeration to say that of all the men in public life who have up to the present time thrown the weight of their position and talents in favor of international goodwill and pacific settlement of disputes, he was easily first. He was literally the first public man in

Europe to bring the subject into political prominence and compel it to remain there. His early peace work was done under peculiar difficulties. It was at the time when Lord Palmerston was at the height of his policy of *taquinerie*, as Bastiat called it, and had half the countries of Europe mad at England. It was at this time that Cobden threw himself into the breach, to counteract the evil influences of the Foreign Secretary, and prevent open rupture with various European states, especially with France.

After the celebration on January 31, 1849, of the overthrow of the corn laws, he turned his activities in the House of Commons toward an attempted reduction of armaments, reduced expenditure and the at that time still more delicate subject of international arbitration. In 1847 he had strenuously though unsuccessfully resisted the attempt made by the government to increase the British forces. Nearly every Liberal paper in the kingdom was against him, but he kept up his opposition to increase of armaments, as bad foreign policy, as long as he lived. On the 5th of January, 1849, he wrote: "It would enable me to die happy if I could feel the satisfaction of having in some degree contributed to the partial disarmament of the world." In 1862, only two years before his death, he made his memorable attack in the House on Palmerston's senseless policy of national defense. The same year he published his pamphlet, "The Three Panics," in which he exposed the groundlessness and absurdity of the alarms of invasion which had seized successive governments in 1848, 1853 and 1862.

All this was pioneer work, and fruitless for the time. But he stated and made clear what the problem was, and the nation has never been able to get the subject out of its consciousness. The Czar of Russia in his famous Manifesto of 1898 was only repeating in a larger way what Cobden had set forth thirty years earlier.

In 1849, June 12, he brought forward his motion in favor of arbitration, the first of its kind in the British Parliament. It was supported by petitions, numerously signed, sent in from all parts of the nation. It was a very moderate proposition. What he proposed was simply the agreement by treaty with other countries to submit disputes for settlement to mixed commissions, with an umpire if necessary. His motion was sneered at as utopian. "The small wits of the House," as he styled them in a private